

California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board

Open Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2007, Board Meeting

The California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (Board) convened its meeting in open session at the call of Rosario Marin, Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency, at 400 R Street, Sacramento, California, on Thursday, February 22, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. Also present were Board members Cindy Aronberg, Deputy Controller, acting for and in the absence of John Chiang, Controller, and Michael A. Ramos, San Bernardino County District Attorney.

Board staff present included Karen McGagin, Executive Officer; Tom O'Connor, Chief Deputy Executive Officer; Kathleen Andleman, Chief Counsel; and Linda Paluda, Manager, Government Claims Program. Tisha Heard, Board Liaison, recorded the meeting.

The Board meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 1. Minutes of the January 18, 2007, Board Meeting

The minutes of the January 18, 2007, Board Meeting were adopted with Board member Cindy Aronberg abstaining from the vote.

Item 2. Public Comment

The Board opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was offered.

Item 3. Executive Officer's Statement

The Executive Officer reported the following information:

- The Executive Officer and Deputy Executive Officer, Victim Compensation Program, attended the California District Attorneys Association Winter Conference in January and presented information on VCGCB activities and initiatives and details on several new laws effective this year that enhance benefits to victims of violent crime in California.
- This year marks the 25th anniversary of the California Victims' Bill of Rights. The Capital Center for Government Law and Policy at McGeorge School of Law will host a conference on March 20-21 celebrating the accomplishments of the past 25 years. As we celebrate the silver anniversary of the Victims' Bill of Rights, it is appropriate to look ahead to future developments in the victims' rights movement with a "Symposium on Crime Victims' Rights - The Third Wave." Symposium cohosts include the VCGCB; the Office of the Governor, Crime Victim Advocate; the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Victim and Survivor Services; and the California District Attorneys Association. The symposium will be a forum for discussion of future developments in the victims' rights movement.
- The Western Regional Conference of the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards will be held in San Diego on April 10-13 and the VCGCB is the host state for the conference. Representatives from 15 western state compensation programs will gather to discuss issues of mutual concern such as enhancing claims processing, public outreach, funding, and a host of other issues.
- On March 19, the VCGCB will launch our bus shelter outreach pilot project. The project will place VCGCB posters in English and Spanish in 60 bus shelters in Los Angeles County. The posters feature the VCGCB's website address and the toll-free telephone number for the Los Angeles County District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program.

- The Victim Witness Coordinating Council Compensation Committee met on February 6 at our new headquarters. Committee members were given a demonstration of the new CaRES (Compensation and Restitution System) claims processing system in addition to discussing compensation issues.
- The federal budget for fiscal year 2008 requested cancellation of the balance of the Crime Victims Fund. There is concern that this proposal would eliminate a secure funding source for the Crime Victims Fund. The reserve balance was targeted for reduction in the prior two years, however, this years budget request seeks to remove the current balance of the fund and leave a projected balance of \$0.

Item 4. Contract Report

The Executive Officer delivered the Contract Report to the Board. No action required.

Government Claims Program

Item 5. Consent Agenda (Nos. 1- 395)

The Board voted to adopt the staff recommendations for numbers 1 through 395 with the exception of number 324 which was continued at the request of the claimant.

Board member Cindy Aronberg abstained from the vote.

Item 6. City of Berkeley

G558374

Gretchen Brigaman appeared on behalf of the Department of Transportation.

The Board voted to adopt the staff recommendation to allow the claim in the total amount of \$341,658.86 to be paid pursuant to Government Code section 965 (agency pay).

Item 7. Dillard Environmental Services, Inc.

G561088,

G561090, G562139, and G559203

Gretchen Brigaman appeared on behalf of the Department of Transportation.

The Board voted to adopt the staff recommendation to allow claim numbers G561088, G561090, and G562139 in the total amount of \$60,214.99.10 to be paid pursuant to Government Code section 965 (agency pay) and to reject claim number G559203.

Item 8. Protest of Signature Technology Group, Inc. **Request for Proposal 05-236**

The Board voted to adopt the staff recommendation to deny the protest of Signature Technology Group, Inc.

Victim Compensation Program

The Board commenced the Victim Compensation Program portion of the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Item 9. VCP Statistical Report for Second Quarter FY 06/07

Laura Hill, Deputy Executive Officer, presented the second quarter VCP Statistical Report for FY 06/07. No action required.

Item 10. Consent Agenda (Nos. 1- 7)

The Board voted to adopt the staff recommendations for numbers 1-7.

Item 11. Requests For Reconsideration (Nos. 8-16)

The Board voted to adopt the staff recommendations to deny the requests for reconsideration for numbers 8-16.

Item 12. Requests Proposed Decisions Following Failure to Appear (Nos. 17-61)

The Board voted to adopt the proposed decisions for numbers 17 through 61.

Closed Session

Pursuant to Government Code sections 11126(c)(3) and 11126(e), the Board adjourned into Closed Session with the Board's Executive Officer, Chief Deputy Executive Officer, and Chief Counsel at 10:32 a.m. to deliberate on the proposed decisions, numbers 62 through 88, and to confer with and receive advice from counsel regarding pending litigation. The Board reconvened into open session at 10:36 a.m.

Open Session

The Board voted to adopt the proposed decisions, numbers 62 through 88.

Adjournment

The Board meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Karen McGagin
Executive Officer

I certify that the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board adopted these minutes at its meeting of March 15, 2007, at Sacramento, California.

Date: March 15, 2007

By: _____

Board Liaison

(Affix Seal here)